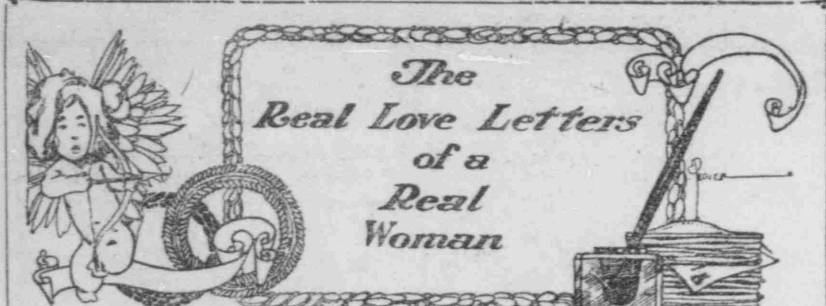


HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS



RAINY-DAY COSTUME.

The raincoat has been somewhat superseded by the rainy-day costume, a design in which the coat and skirt are developed in griffonette, a water-proof fabric that gives not a hint of its rain-proof qualities. Rather does it resemble a high-class covert or whipcord weave, and is fashioned after the best of tailor-made models. The return to the plain and severe tailor-made, that which faithfully follows the lines of the figure, is displayed in the close-fitting coat, which has the full complement of seams, but is fitted with a single dart in front, thus allowing for the full straight-front effect. Sleeve is moderately full at the top, tapering below the elbow to a tight shape at the wrist. Mannish collar and lapels make a correct finish. The skirt is in nine gores, each with a backward turning pleat that is stitched down to about the knee line, and then pressed flat to the hem. The skirt, as is proper, escapes the ground all around; but is not short as those that originally appeared under the guise of a rainy-day belonging.



The Real Love Letters of a Real Woman

XXXVII.

My Love:

Uncasy, skurrying snowflakes are fluttering hither and thither in the air, not knowing where to light lest they be relentlessly trod upon by some shoe company. Troublesome, anxious thoughts are in wild commotion in the upper apartment of my cranium block, but I dare not let them light on this sheet of paper for fear they would disturb your peace of mind. If you were only here they could pass directly from my mind to yours and I know all would be tranquil; but when a pen and paper are used as a medium of exchange, I fear they would not reach you in the same spirit they leave me. A woman's tongue, when used as a medium of exchange, will alter a thing materially; but a pen and paper will alter it spiritually. So there is no safe way that you can get my thoughts unless there is a connection between my mouth and your ear. When will that connection be established and chartered by law? We have made the survey and found only one stream to bridge. Oh, that we had the power and met to erect that structure! Two years ago the terrible drought lowered the waters of the old Penobscot so as to permit foot crossing in two places; something that was never before known. The storm of opposition against our marriage, some time, will have spent itself, a drought will follow; and then, with the good wishes of all, we can cross the stream without getting our feet wet. That, I fancy, will be a better way than to attempt to bridge it now.

Everything is going well with me at school; in fact, there has been but one ripple in the pedagogical stream this year, and that was when the principal told me that I was born to be a teacher. I did not like that for a cent, and I am not going to believe but what I was born for you just as much as Eve was for Adam, although I was not a side issue like Eve. How lovely it must have been for those two people not to have anyone interfere in their matrimonial affairs? Even the serpent helped things along. But with everything in their favor they could not resist hooking pears and then raising Cain. And here am I, poor, weak mortal, with a family of ten, and relations as numerous as the Israelites, standing as I do at the thought of my marrying the only Adam in the world for me; and with ten times the sagacity of the serpent, contriving all manner of ways to keep us apart. But the law of love will yet prevail, and our hitherto troubled lives be a realistic pantomime of the thirtieth chapter of Chronicles. We shall then be happy enough to make up for all the sorrows of the past.

Forever yours sincerely,



Growing Old Gracefully.

Sometimes as age comes to people there is a sloughing away of the small courtesies or charms of manner. Yet the younger folks who observe such lapses of manner may, many of them, even now be forming habits that age will confirm and which will prove good as objectionable as those which today they critically notice. The "way" of youth becomes second nature with age. So, after all, are not the habits of others who are older than we excellent object lessons to us who are daily forming habits? They will prove good to avoid the small lapses of good breeding, the little heedless tricks in which we are sometimes tempted to indulge.

When one is no longer young she is not always schoolable, and young people are too respectful to attempt it. With each of us rests the responsibility of keeping our manners to the mark of perfect breeding.

Assisting Eyesight.

To one with failing sight sewing is less of a task than the threading of the needles. So let some one with keen eyes thread a number of needles upon the same spool, leaving them wrapped with the thread around it. Then when the seamstress wants to begin she may draw out the thread, slipping back all the needles but one, break it off at the desired length, and let the rest of the needles remain upon the spool for future use. Thus she can use as many needles as there are needles put upon the spool, and her work goes forward without any trying delays.

A child's bright vision and leisure-time may thus be made to save the mother or grandmother; at the same time the little one is taught that helpfulness and thoughtfulness which mean so much in homelife and character formation.

Times Want Ads Bring Results.

The Latest in Headgear.

Everyone recognizes the paramount importance of hats. Has not one of our cleverest writers remarked that one may in time grow to care about a soul, but that a chapeau makes an instant impression?

Well, the latest in hats is warranted to make an instant impression, for it boasts the novelty of a high—"dome" is the correct name, though thimble is more descriptive—crown, covered plainly in la the pin-cushion with velvet, the base being decorated in some way, with a wreath of shaded dahlias, repeating the tones of the velvet, perhaps, or by the much-discussed but recalcitrant veil, or both together; while its brim is not unlike an enlarged and extended edition of that on a man's felt, and often enough is of a totally different color. Our old friend the felt "hop" bent into unwonted smartness, and the French sailor generally modernized, are also favored.

When a Garment Is Dyed.

A garment to be dyed must first of all be absolutely clean. Whether it is silk, wool or cotton it must first of all be washed with soap and rinsed in clear water afterward. The dye must be boiling and the goods to be dyed must remain in boiling liquid for twenty minutes or half an hour. Chiffon takes dye beautifully. So do woolen goods. Silk is harder to do and sometimes only takes in spots. But still by seeing that you get the proper dye for each kind of goods and by following the instructions implicitly you will often get results far beyond your expectations. One of the points is to keep the article to be dyed moving the whole time it is in the liquid, and then the color is sure of reaching every part. Of course, a small wooden stick must be used for this purpose to avoid soiling the hands.

Choosing a Career.

The phrase, "choosing a career," is a familiar one. Has it ever occurred to you how absurdly inexact a phrase it is, so far as the real matter of going to work is concerned? It would seem that most of us are chosen by our "careers" rather than they by us, and, further more, that the word career itself is almost too pretentious to be applied to the business life of the average busy American man or woman.

A person may justly be said to have had a career when she has won distinction in her calling. Has won it—mark you. In that important hour when her determination to make for herself a career is born, she has no reason to talk of career, but of calling. The calling is the road to the career.

The ancient clement enters so largely into the adoption of different callings that one looks back on his own life seeing the result of the trifling accident, and smiles at the thought of how equally trifling a matter might have made life an altogether different story. We feel and feel and feel about, sometimes, before we put the key in the right keyhole, and—the lock is turned.

Hamburg Steak Doctored.

Food adulteration, as many know, has now extended even to Hamburg steak. Once upon a time the economical woman could sincerely feel that she was buying sweet, wholesome meat at a small price in this form.

Hamburg steak taken directly from a good piece of meat and chopped by the butcher before one's eyes is not especially cheap, and the cheaper variety found for sale already chopped is badly adulterated and often unfit to eat.

If anyone wishes to be really economical and has the time to spare she will be wise if she buys a low-priced meat like the round and puts it through meat like our patented meat chopper at home. The butcher charges extra, a "good extra," too, for the chopping, and his meat chopper will probably not be as clean as the one you use. Hamburg steak will be more tender and better in every way if it is broiled instead of fried. Fry it on onions, and it is nice for a simple meal. Serve with french fried onions. If you do not use it should be served with some kind of sauce, with watercress or other garnish.

Other Ground Steaks.

There are two other forms of steak similar to Hamburg and excellent for a change. The first is called Hanoverian steak. To prepare it, chop a piece of lean beef—about a pound and a half off the sirloin, if convenient.

Grind it exceedingly fine in a meat grinder. Add a tablespoonful of salt and half a teaspoonful of pepper. Form the meat into six flat cakes, rub them with melted butter and broil four minutes on each side. Put one ounce of butter in a frying pan on the stove, add half a cupful of finely chopped onion and cook without browning for six minutes. Then add four large tomatoes peeled and cut into small pieces. Season highly with salt and pepper, using about one-half teaspoonful of salt and one-fourth tea spoonful of pepper. Add also half a teaspoonful of sugar and cook ten minutes. After arranging the steaks on a platter, pour the sauce over them and serve.

The second is a beef à la tartare. Use only beef of the finest quality, as this curious dish is never cooked. Take any tender piece of steak and season every pound of it, after mincing it fine, with one tablespoonful of salt. Divide the meat equally into four pyramids and place them on four small tea plates. Make a hollow in the middle of each pyramid, put into it one raw egg yolk and garnish with tiny slices of onion or minced onion and pieces of pickled beet. Skin and bone six anchovies. Divide into two fillets and roll each fillet up. Place three of them on each plate or on top of a pyramid. Serve with bread and butter. This dish is not seen as often in America as in Europe, but it will make a very good and nourishing luncheon dish. After the plates of meat are served, each guest mixes the egg yolk in the center with the meat and the garnish of vegetables, seasoning further to suit his taste.

INTERESTING.

"Don't you think," he asked, "that Mrs. Blizzerton has an interesting face?"

"Yes," she replied, "very. I am always filled with wonder at the way she is able to fix it up."

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IN GRAY AND WHITE.

The above is a delightful suggestion for a coquettish hat of gray felt, the crown encircled with silver cloth ribbon, ending in loops at back, and underneath the turned brim resting gracefully on the hair are two white plumes.

TABLE MANNERS SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO THE CHILDREN EARLY

Unless parents are extremely particular, little children rarely have good table manners, and the youngsters eat like young animals let loose upon food. It is neither pleasant nor agreeable, and if permitted it will take years to overcome what was such a short time in becoming a habit. On the other hand, when children are trained into table etiquette they never forget it, and this part of daily social life is pleasant in consequence. Eating at best is not the most attractive performance to see, and no effort should be spared to make it unobjectionable.

One of the first things that a child should be taught is to sit erect at table even if loafing is permitted at other times. The reason for it at mealtime particularly is obvious, when one notices the spotted pinafores of children or coats or waists of adults who do not pay attention enough to this detail, and who, if they have the misfortune to spill a drop from a spoon, have it fall squarely upon themselves. If a particle of food falls from a person sitting up properly it will fall to the plate.

Head Is Bent.

Another trick common, not only to many children, but even to older persons, is to eat with one elbow on the table, bringing the mouth down to meet the food, not raising the arm sufficiently to prevent bending the head. This is awkward and very bad form, but it is astonishing how frequently one sees it done. There are no conditions under which the head should be stooped for food; it is too much like an animal.

The matter of eating bread and butter sounds simple, but children are allowed to do it in a slovenly manner.

They take up a whole slice of bread, and holding it in the palm of the left hand proceed to spread it with butter. This is anything but dainty or good manners, and if a child is to have a slice the bread should be cut in two and folded over. If a whole slice is to be buttered at once it must be kept on the plate and not held in the hand. To eat half circles out of a whole slice is another breach of etiquette. A child may eat from a half slice, but a grown person should always break bread piece by piece, and never bite from it.

Napkin, Knife and Fork.

How to use a napkin properly is a thing that should be taught to every child. While the whole square of linen is not to be covered over the face at one time, neither is just one corner to be used, as one so frequently sees done. It should be pulled from the lap and raised without seeming to be pulled, one part still resting in the lap, but more than a corner being used.

Managing a knife and fork is most important. Children are not the only ones who clutch them half way up the handles so that ends project awkwardly from the back of the hand, a position that should never be tolerated. Both implements should be held so the entire hands of each are in the hands, the fingers several inches from the base of the fork's tines, and the forefinger of the right hand placed against the blade joining the handle. Elbows are to be held close to the body without being cramped. In holding a glass having a stem the fingers are not to be spread out over it, some of them touching the bowl of the glass and the others on the stem. Only the stem should be held, and that near the base of the bowl, so that it will balance well. Three fingers and a thumb are enough to hold it.

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